

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CHIEF HEARING OFFICER DIRECTIVE

DOCKET NO. 2021-192-E ORDER NO. 2021-108-H

AUGUST 13, 2021

CHIEF HEARING OFFICER: David Butler

DOCKET DESCRIPTION:

**Dominion Energy South Carolina, Incorporated (“DESC”) Coal Retirement Docket
Opened Pursuant to Commission Order No. 2021-418**

MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION:

**Petition to Intervene of South Carolina Coastal Conservation League (“CCL”) and
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (“SACE”) (or together, the “Petitioners”)**

CHIEF HEARING OFFICER’S ACTION:

**This matter comes before the Chief Hearing Officer on the Petition to Intervene of the
South Carolina Coastal Conservation League and Southern Alliance for Clean Energy. The
Petition is timely filed, and no objections to the intervention have been filed.**

**Following the Commission’s acceptance of DESC’s Modified 2020 Integrated Resource
Plan (“IRP”), the Commission opened this Docket on June 9, 2021, to evaluate DESC’s
retirement of coal plants, pursuant to Order No. 2021-418. In its Modified 2020 IRP, DESC
selected Resource Plan 8 as its preferred portfolio, which proposes to retire the Wateree
and Williams coal plants in 20208 and convert the Cope coal plant to natural gas in 2030.**

**After it has been determined that the Petition to Intervene has been timely filed, the next
question for the Commission is to determine whether or not the petitioning party has clear
factual support or grounds for the proposed intervention. S.C. Regs. 103-825A(3) requires
that a party making a Petition to Intervene in a matter pending before the SC Public
Service Commission must:**

set forth clearly and concisely:

- (a) The facts from which the nature of the petitioner's alleged right or interest can be
determined;**
- (b) The grounds of the proposed intervention;**
- (c) The position of the petitioner in the proceeding.**

**The Petition asserts that CCL is a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the
State of South Carolina whose mission is to protect the natural environment of the South
Carolina coastal plain and to enhance the quality of life in its communities by working with
individuals, businesses, and government to ensure balanced solutions. The Petition further
states that CCL and its members support the development of energy policy that is in the**

public interest of South Carolinians. CCL has members in South Carolina who receive electricity service from DESC, and CCL states that they will be impacted by the decisions made in this proceeding regarding the retirement of coal plants, which it believes will shape the Company's supply-side resource portfolio and affect the cost of electricity.

The Petition also asserts SACE is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote responsible and equitable energy choices to ensure clean, safe and healthy communities throughout the Southeast. The Petition notes that SACE and its members are interested in promoting greater reliance on clean energy resources to meet the South's energy needs. Like CCL, SACE has members in South Carolina who receive electricity service from DESC and the Petition states that they will be impacted by the decisions made in this proceeding regarding the retirement of coal plants, which SACE states will shape the Company's supply-side resource portfolio and affect the cost of electricity.

Petitioners and their members assert that they have direct and substantial interests that will be impacted by the decisions made in this proceeding regarding the retirement of coal plants. Petitioners seek to promote the adoption of near-term renewables and clean energy alternatives to replace coal-powered generation. In addition, the Petitioners seek to ensure that DESC is undertaking an EFA-compliant planning process in which it properly considers and accurately estimates the cost of alternative supply and demand resources. According to the Petition, participation in this proceeding by the Petitioners is aimed at supporting clean energy decisions that will lead to cleaner, safer, and healthier communities for all South Carolinians.

From these facts, this Chief Hearing Officer holds that CCL and SACE have successfully satisfied the three criteria for intervention stated in the Regulation. Their interest in this matter can clearly be discerned, as can the grounds for the intervention, and their position.

Further, the Petition to Intervene was timely filed and there are no objections to the intervention. Accordingly, the Petition to Intervene of CCL and SACE is hereby granted in this Docket. This ends the Chief Hearing Officer's Directive.